



Roy•Elliott•O'Connor LLP  
Barristers

## **Class Action Lawsuit claims negligence led to collapse of Algo Centre Mall**

For Immediate release

Elliot Lake, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – A \$30 million class-action lawsuit on behalf of people hurt in the collapse of the Algo Centre Mall was filed today in the Superior Court of Justice.

The lawsuit names the Government of Ontario, The City of Elliot Lake and the owner of the Algo Centre Mall as defendants in the action.

Lead plaintiffs in the lawsuit are Jack and Elaine Quinte, who owned Hungry Jack's, a restaurant adjacent to the Mall's food court where the collapse occurred.

At a new conference today in Elliot Lake, Elaine Quinte talked being in the Hungry Jack's when the collapse occurred. "I began to be struck by falling debris myself as my employee and I raced to get out of the area, terrified that we were going to be killed. It was a horrifying experience and I still suffer loss of sleep and I get overcome with emotion whenever I think of the events of the day."

Jack Quinte says there had been problems before at the Algo Centre mall. "About one year ago, a large piece of concrete came crashing through the roof of the Hungry Jack's Restaurant, narrowly missing my wife, Elaine. We brought this dangerous situation to the attention of the mall management and the city of Elliot Lake. We were not aware of any corrective action being taken by either.

Representing the plaintiffs in the lawsuit are Doug Elliott, from law firm Roy Elliott O'Connor, lawyer Roland Aube from Elliot Lake, and Jeff Broadbent with the law firm Feifel Broadbent Gualazzi in Sault Ste. Marie.

"The Algo Centre Mall had repeated problems with its roof before the collapse," says lawyer Doug Elliott, a leading class action lawyer. "The Ministry of Labour had been in to inspect the site several times because it posed a threat to the people working in the mall area. It is our claim that the work done by the Ministry of Labour was ineffective. Indeed the results speak for themselves. We believe if they had been more diligent, two people would not have died, and more than 20 other people would not have injured."

Elliott also says the people hurt by the disaster should also not have to wait for a verdict in the lawsuit before getting any compensation.

“The people of Elliot Lake should not have to wait years for this case to make it’s way through the courts, they should get compensation now. The province can then look to others who have been careless and may be in a position to contribute, and get reimbursed by them later.

“The Ontario government is in a position to do the right thing,” says Elliott “and set up a compensation scheme in the coming weeks and months that will look after the people and the businesses affected, the people who have died or been injured, and the people who have been psychologically traumatized and the employees who have been out of work.”

- 30 -

For more information, or to arrange interviews contact

John McGrath  
The McGrath Group  
[john@mcgrathgrp.com](mailto:john@mcgrathgrp.com)  
416-998-6570